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REMARKS

This Submission Under 37 C.F.R. 1.114 accompanies Applicants' Request for Continued Examination and is in supplemental response to the final Office Action mailed October 19, 2005 and is in response to the Advisory Action mailed February 8, 2006. By this response, claims 1, 10-11, 14, 24-25 and 30 are amended, and claims 9 and 13 are canceled. No new matter has been added.

In view of the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application contain subject obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

It is to be understood that the Applicants, by amending the claims, do not acquiesce to the Examiner's characterizations of the art of record or to the Applicants' subject matter recited in the pending claims. Further, the Applicants are not acquiescing to the Examiner's statements as to the applicability of the art of record to the pending claims by filing the instant responsive amendments.

REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 4-26 and 31

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4-26 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Sampath et al. (U.S. Patent 6,279,029, hereinafter "Sampath") in view of Ellis (U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2004/0226042 – effective filing date March 4, 1999, hereinafter "Ellis"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants' independent claim 1 recites (independent claims 24, 25 recite similar limitations):

“A method for providing user interfaces at a terminal for a plurality of video-on-demand services offered by provider equipment of an information distribution system, comprising:
providing a first application to support a first user interface for a first service associated with an interactive program guide (IPG);
providing a second application to support a second user interface for a second service associated with video-on-demand (VOD);

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maintaining first and second message queues for the first and second applications, respectively;
coordinating passing of control of the terminal between the first and second applications via a control mechanism, wherein the control mechanism passes control to the first and second applications via messages provided to the first and second message queues, respectively, wherein each of the first and second applications is operable in an active state or an inactive state, and the first and second applications transition to the active state in response to receiving a launch message in the first and second message queues, respectively, wherein the launch message comprises a keycode parameter; and
in response to a termination of the second application, sending the launch message to the first message queue, wherein the keycode parameter of the launch message indicates the condition of the termination of the second application. (emphasis added).

The present invention includes when terminating a VOD application, a launch message having a keycode parameter indication the conditions of the VOD application's exit is sent to the message queue of the IPG. This is supported on page 26 lines 11-23 of the applicants' specification.

Sampat merely discloses that a message control manager maintains the queue of buffers. The information stored in the buffers is network events. This allows for the transmission of data packets. This information is used for controlling user sockets by the receive buffer manager 2216 using function calls for assisting the DLM 2106 to orchestrate the flow of one or more channels over one or more transport media, where each channel comprises one or more types of media stream. Sampat does not disclose teach or suggest "in response to a termination of the second application, sending the launch message to the first message queue, wherein the keycode parameter of the launch message indicates the condition of the termination of the second application."

Ellis fails to bridge the substantial gap between the Sampath reference and Applicants' invention. Ellis merely discloses directing simultaneous display of a selected television program and a program guide display. In particular, Ellis discloses, "Video-on-demand program guide display 70 may be invoked using any suitable technique such as by using a dedicated key on remote control unit 50 such as play key 58, VOD browse key 51 (FIG. 5), or using an on screen button (not shown).

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Alternatively, guide 70 may be invoked by first entering a "normal browse mode" (i.e., invoke a program guide display showing regularly broadcast programs) and then select a designated video-on-demand channel using the up and down cursor keys 54a, and 54b or numeric keys 60." (See paragraph 55).

Ellis fails to teach or suggest Applicants' claimed VOD termination response "wherein the keycode parameter of the launch message indicates the condition of the termination of the second application."

Thus, Sampat and Ellis, singly or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the independent claims as a whole. As such, Applicants submit that, for at least the reasons stated above, independent claims 1, 24, and 25 are not obvious and fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103 and are patentable thereunder.

Furthermore, claims 4-23, and 26 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1, 24, and 25 and recite additional limitations thereof. As such and at least for the same reasons as discussed above, Applicants submit that these dependent claims are also not obvious and fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103 and are patentable thereunder. Moreover, the current claim 31 depends from claim 30. Thus the rejection to claim 31 is also improper. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 30

The Examiner has rejected claims 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Filletto et al. (U.S. Patent 6,300,951, hereinafter "Filletto") in view of Ellis. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants' independent claim 30 recites:

"A terminal configurable to provide user interfaces for a plurality of video-on-demand services offered by an information distribution system, comprising:

a first state indicative of a first application executing to support a first user interface for an interactive program guide;

a second state indicative of a second application executing to support a second user interface for video-on-demand content;

a third state indicative of the first and second applications being idle;

means for transitioning between the first, second, and third states;

and

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in response to a termination of the second state, means for sending a launch message comprising a keycode parameter to the first application to transition to the first state, wherein the keycode parameter of the launch message indicates the condition of the termination of the second application. " (emphasis added).

Claim 30 recites the feature "in response to a termination of the second state, means for sending a launch message comprising a keycode parameter to the first application to transition to the first state, wherein the keycode parameter of the launch message indicates the condition of the termination of the second application." This is supported on page 26 lines 11-23 of the applicants' specification.

Filletto discloses that open windows may be minimized and widows may be toggled. However, Filletto does not disclose, teach or suggest "in response to a termination of the second state, means for sending a launch message comprising a keycode parameter to the first application to transition to the first state, wherein the keycode parameter of the launch message indicates the condition of the termination of the second application." Thus, the Filletto reference fails to teach each and every element of the claimed invention, as arranged in the claims.

The Ellis reference fails to bridge the substantial gap between the Filletto reference and Applicants' claimed invention. As discussed above, Ellis merely discloses directing simultaneous display of a selected television program and a program guide display. In particular, Ellis discloses, "Video-on-demand program guide display 70 may be invoked using any suitable technique such as by using a dedicated key on remote control unit 50 such as play key 58, VOD browse key 51 (FIG. 5), or using an on screen button (not shown). Alternatively, guide 70 may be invoked by first entering a "normal browse mode" (i.e., invoke a program guide display showing regularly broadcast programs) and then select a designated video-on-demand channel using the up and down cursor keys 54a, and 54b or numeric keys 60." (See paragraph 55).

Ellis fails to disclose, teach or suggest the inventive feature of "in response to a termination of the second state, means for sending a launch message comprising a keycode parameter to the first application to transition to the first state, wherein the

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keycode parameter of the launch message indicates the condition of the termination of the second application."

For at least the reasons discussed above, the Filletto and Ellis references, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest Applicants' invention as a whole. As such, Applicants submit that independent claim 30 is not obvious and fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103 and is patentable thereunder. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's rejection be withdrawn.

Furthermore, claim 31 depend directly from independent claim 30 and recites additional limitations thereof. As such and at least for the same reasons as discussed above, Applicants submit that dependent claim 31 is also not obvious and fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103 and are patentable thereunder.

CONCLUSION

Thus, Applicant submits that claims 1, 4-8, 10-12, 14-26 and 30-31 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Eamon J. Wall or Jasper Kwoh at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 3/3/06

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